

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SCCT-01 EB-07 ACDA-10 IO-10 /096 W

----- 106046

R 101307Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 857

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 86

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON IRISH FISHING FLEET

1. EVENTS INVOLVING REPUBLIC IRELAND DOMINATED NEWS
NORTHERN IRELAND MARCH 10. REPORTS FORTHCOMING SUMMIT
MEETING EEC DUBLIN COMPETED WITH STORIES ATTACK ON IRISH
FISHING FLEET AND WITH ALLEGATIONS SUSPECT IN KILLING
BRITISH POLICE CONSTABLE TIBBLE UNDER ARREST IN REPUBLIC
BUT SUCCESSFULLY RESISTING EXTRADITION TO U.K.

2. ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) LONDONDERRY BRIGADE
HAS NOT RPT NOT YET CONFIRMED PRESS ALLEGATIONS CLAIMING
UDA RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANT SOME THIRTY INCENDIARY DEVICES
ON SEVENTEEN FISHING VESSELS LOUGH FOYLE. COUNTY DONGELA PORT
OF GREENCASTLE EARCH MARCH 9. TWO TRAWLERS REPORTED DESTROYED
AND THREE OTHERS DAMAGED. UDA HAS HOWEVER RELEASED STATEMENT
ACCUSING GREENCASTLE-BASED FLEET OF RUNNING GUNS AND EXPLOSIVES
AND CLAIMING SIGNIFICANT SUPPLY ARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES
FOUND IN SEARCH OF VISSELS IN FLEET. SPOKESMAN FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND FISHING ASSOCIATION HAS ISSUED STRONG DENIAL
THAT CONTROVERSY OVER COASTAL FISHING RIGHTS COULD HAVE BEEN
MOTIVE FOR ATTACK.

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3. MEMBERS UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND AND OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENTS REQUESTING PRIME MINISTER WILSON DISCUSS PROBLEM OF EXTRADITION WITH MR. COSGRAVE DURING EEC SUMMIT. LATEST POINT OF ISSUE IS REPORT THAT SUSPECT IN TIBBLE SHOOTING ARRESTED IN DUBLIN ON CHARGE BEING MEMBER ILLEGAL ORGANIZATION BUT THAT HE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE EXTRADITED TO U.K. BECAUSE OF CLAIMED POLITICAL NATURE OF OFFENCE.

4. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENT WAS WEEK-END STATEMENT BY RUAIRO O'BRADAIGH, PRESIDENT PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN AFTER VISIT CENTERS TYRONE AND LONDONDERRY THAT PROVISIONAL IRA CEASEFIRE ("TRUCE") HAD GIVEN PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN GREAT HOPE FOR REPUBLICAN IDEALS WITH "NEW IRELAND", AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.

5. ONE BELFAST MAN SHOT AND KILLED IN HOME MARCH 8, ANOTHER WOUNDED BY THREE SHOTS AND THERE SPIRITED GUN BATTLE OUTSIDE BELFAST SOCIAL CLUB EARLY MARCH 10 WITH SOME TEN PEOPLE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED. LATTER INCIDENT BELIEVED CONNECTED WITH DISPUTE BETWEEN OFFICIAL IRA AND BREAKAWAY IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY.
SPICER

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